

asking for, on foreign operations, part of which is to deal with infectious disease surveillance, \$175 million, and \$255 million to feed these Afghan refugees who are literally dying on our TV screens every night, and we had a party-line vote: The Democrats saying go along with the President, move the bill, give him the money and the resources, do what is important for America, and the Republicans, with the exception of one Senator, Mr. STEVENS who voted "present," all voted not to go to the President's bill on foreign operations appropriations. The reason they have decided to hold back the money for this emergency aid to feed, clothe, and shelter the Afghan refugees is because the number of judges coming out of the Judiciary Committee is not coming out fast enough; is that the argument?

Mr. REID. I am embarrassed for my minority friends to say that is right, they are not moving fast enough.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask, if I may, the Senator from Nevada, is it not also true that more than, I guess, 2 weeks ago we passed an aviation security bill in the Senate 100-0, a bill that was brought to the floor by Senator FRITZ HOLLINGS, a Democrat from South Carolina, and Senator JOHN MCCAIN, a Republican from Arizona? They brought this bipartisan aviation security bill before the Senate to finally have a Federal response to the problem of security at our airports. We passed it unanimously and sent it to the House of Representatives where it has not been called for a vote in almost 2 weeks; is that a fact?

Mr. REID. I respond to my friend in answer to his question, he is absolutely right. It is being held up and it is very clear why: Because the majority whip in the House has said he does not want these employees to be federalized. He wants them to be let out to the lowest bidder, as we have now. The majority whip said, from what I read in the newspaper, that he cannot allow the bill to come up because he does not have enough votes to have his position prevail, so he is just stopping it from coming to the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Has the Senator from Nevada had the same experience I have since September 11 where he has gone back to his home State and, more often than not, people come up to him and say: Thank you for addressing this problem threatening America in a bipartisan fashion, in working together, standing with the President to fight these battles? Has the Senator heard that in Nevada as often as I have heard it in Illinois?

Mr. REID. I went to a breakfast this morning in Washington, and they say the same thing in Washington that people say in Nevada: What in the world is wrong? Why can't you get this done; why can we not make these people who check our bags, who put food on the airplane, who put fuel in the airplanes, Federal employees so we can make sure they are paid a livable wage?

Mr. DURBIN. And with a background check, with training, with supervision.

Mr. REID. Yes. As the people said this morning and people say in Nevada, and as the Senator said they say in Illinois, that does not sound like too much of a wild concept.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask the Senator from Nevada, is it not a curious situation that the Democrats are now backing the President and wanting to move these things forward and the Republicans are stopping the President's agenda? It is the Republicans stopping the President's request for foreign operations funds to feed the Afghan refugees, \$255 million to feed and clothe these helpless innocent people who are literally dying in these terrible conditions. It is the Republican Party of the President that stopped our consideration of this bill this morning, with the exception of one Senator, Mr. STEVENS. And when we are asked time and again, Will you please stand behind the President, maybe we should say to our friends across America who follow this debate: We are standing behind the President; please ask the President's party to stand behind the President. It appears that is where it has broken down.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend in response to his question, we have not seen the pain and suffering and despair in Afghanistan that is going to occur in about 2 or 3 weeks when winter hits.

Afghan winters are known for their brutality. These people know that, and the reason they are trying to get out of there is because of the brutal winters they have in Afghanistan.

The Senator is absolutely right. And I also respond to his question in this manner: The President has received bipartisan support on his issues, whether it was the \$40 billion for New York, whether it was the airline bailout, whether it was the work we have done in counterterrorism. Name whatever it is he felt was important, we stood shoulder to shoulder by him.

I say to my friend from Illinois, the distinguished senior Senator from Illinois, I am a little bit disappointed in President Bush. I think he should be trying to help us on this issue and tell his party to back off. He should work with Senator DASCHLE, try to maybe speed things up a little bit, or let him talk to Senator LEAHY or Senator HATCH, but he should be helping us move this bill. This is his bill.

So I say to my friend, in spite of the weeks of bipartisanship, 6 weeks as of today, we have shown this President, the administration has been silent on this 3-week roving filibuster.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask the Senator from Nevada, in this bill, the foreign operations appropriations bill which the Republicans stopped this morning from coming up for consideration, in the committee report on the bill, this bipartisan committee report, it refers to the situation in Afghanistan as, and I quote, "the most urgent massive humanitarian crisis anywhere."

We are having this bill held up, but we are turning on our televisions at night, as I saw last night, to see this gripping scene that no father or mother could stand to watch for more than a few seconds of a child lying on the dirt in one of these refugee camps, this Afghan family that fled their country because of their fear of the Taliban and fear of the war. This little child was literally lying there, swathed in blankets and rags, listless and clearly sick, with flies all over her face, and her father trying to swat them away saying: I have nothing to give her. I have no money to buy medicine, nothing.

We see these scenes at night and it tears at our hearts because our war is not against the Afghan people. It is against the terrorists and the Taliban that harbors them. Yet when the President brings us a bill to do something to help those people, the Democrats stand with him and want to call the bill, while the Republicans, his own party, turn their backs on him in what has been described as the most massive humanitarian crisis anywhere.

To say that is a battle worth fighting for, these poor, defenseless, dying people, so the Judiciary Committee could turn out a few more judges to the satisfaction of some of the Senate Republicans, I do not think can be defended.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, the then-majority leader, Senator LOTT—and this is not a direct quote, but it is pretty close—when there was a question which came up last year or the year before about judges, said when he went home he did not have anybody ask him about judges.

Well, that is about right. But I do have people ask about anthrax. I do have them ask about threats of smallpox, threats of influenza virus, threats of terrorists generally.

Also, I say to my friend, I spoke very briefly this morning about another crisis we tend not to focus on, but in this bill there is \$475 million to help people with AIDS. I say to my friend, as I said earlier, 7,000 people are dying every day in Africa because of AIDS. We have money in this bill to help that plague.

Mr. DURBIN. Yes, we do.

Mr. REID. And that is what it is; it is a plague. The Senator not only is a member of the Judiciary Committee, the Senator is a member of the Appropriations Committee. We work very hard recognizing that AIDS is not an African problem; it is our problem, too.

The money for AIDS education and treatment will be held up. Now they can say all they want, they meaning the minority: We will pass a bill as soon as you give us more judges.

It is not that easy, I say to my friend from Illinois. Thanksgiving is 3 weeks away as of next week. We have conference reports. We have terrorism issues we have to work on, bioterrorism, counterterrorism, and these appropriations bills do not go that quickly. People have the right to offer amendments.

Do they think some magic is going to happen and we are going to do a foreign